



December 28, 2017

Via ECFS (GN Docket No. 17-258)

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary
445 Twelfth Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

*Re: Promoting Investment in the 3550-3700 MHz Band (GN Docket No. 17-258)
Notice of Proposed Rulemaking and Order Terminating Petitions
Comments of SPITwSPOTS, Inc.*

SPITwSPOTS, Inc. ("SPITwSPOTS") urges the Federal Communications Commission ("FCC") to reject calls to greatly increase the size of the licensed geographic areas for Priority Access Licenses ("PALs") that are to be issued for the Citizens Broadband Radio Service ("CBRS"). Such a rule change, as described in the above-referenced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking ("NPRM"), would restrict competition in the provision of innovative wireless services and would unduly burden the ability of smaller providers to obtain CBRS spectrum at auction.

SPITwSPOTS is a small local provider of fixed wireless broadband access services in Alaska. We offer residential broadband plans with speeds of up to 100 mbps via 900 MHz, 2.4 GHz, 3.65 GHz and 5.470-5.825 GHz frequency bands, in addition to some more specialized business services. Many of our approximately 1,600 customers live in extremely rural, remote areas within the Kenai Peninsula Borough.

The 3.65 GHz spectrum has enhanced our ability to provide services to our customers, particularly in remote areas that are costly to deploy. As SPITwSPOTS has worked to bridge the extreme digital divide in parts of Alaska, the FCC's flexible approach to this spectrum has justified our company's economic outlay to build out these services. SPITwSPOTS also anticipates that the additional services authorized under the current CBRS rules could offer important opportunities for new and expanded use of these bands in Alaska under the three-tiered licensing systems. Most specifically, the decision to license PALs based on census tracts – which generally are localized areas – should open the door for small providers to bring new competition to wireless broadband services by allowing a company like SPITwSPOTS to acquire rights to spectrum that more closely corresponds with existing service areas.

Despite these many benefits, and within three short years of the CBRS rules first taking effect, the NPRM seeks comment on significant changes. In particular, the FCC asks for comment on licensing PALs based on larger geographic areas, like Partial Economic Areas ("PEAs"), rather than the census tracts authorized under current rules. SPITwSPOTS objected to this proposal last July when made by T-Mobile and CTIA and does so again here.

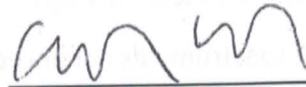
A PEA-sized PAL would construct a large artificial barrier to entry for smaller companies like ours. As we compete to acquire scarce spectrum rights to serve sparsely populated areas, census tract-based service areas would provide companies like ours with reasonable opportunities to expand and improve service consistent with our network reach and capability. By contrast, PEAs encompass significantly larger service areas, which in Alaska may include several boroughs. For many smaller operators, such large geographic areas are inefficient and prohibitively costly to serve. Ultimately, such operators would be forced to overpay for more spectrum coverage than they need or would be priced out of acquiring spectrum altogether. Instead, overlarge geographic areas for PALs wouldn't simply tip the scales toward large carriers in and around our network areas but would also stop new competition before it has a chance to start.

Instead, SPITwSPOTS urges the Commission to continue moving forward with licensing PALs based on the existing rules. Making such an abrupt shift after so many stakeholders have developed business plans and have expended capital and other resources based on the current rules – would harm competition in our markets. For these reasons, SPITwSPOTS respectfully requests that the FCC decline to expand the geographic sizes of PALs for the Citizens Band Radio Service and instead retain the current one PAL per census tract rule.

Respectfully submitted,

SPITwSPOTS, Inc.

By:



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Title: President